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Institution of Washington.  
Director Frederic A. Lucas, of The American Museum of Natural History.

The income from this gift to the academy will be sufficient to award the first medal and honorarium at the April meeting, 1918. Dr. Henry Fairfield Osborn has been designated by the president of the academy to act as chairman.

#### WESTERN AGRONOMIC WORKERS

THE second annual meeting of western agronomic workers will be held at the Washington State Agricultural College, Pullman, Washington, and the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho (only nine miles apart), on July 31 and August 1 and 2, inclusive. The geographic scope of the gathering is the eleven western states occupying the territory from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The following topics will be discussed during the session:

1. Where and to what extent is it possible to eliminate summer fallow?
2. Rotation systems for irrigation sections.
3. Rotation systems for coast and intermediate sections.
4. Rotation systems for dry land.
5. Organic matter and nitrogen content of soil as affected by cropping systems.
6. Irrigation and alkali studies.
7. Methods and organization for supplying and distributing superior seed.
8. Possible extended use of new crops and the production of crops in the United States formerly supplied from other countries.
9. Cooperation among the states for investigating new problems.
10. The practical application of our investigations.
11. Better marketing, a factor for increasing food supply.
12. Collegiate courses in agronomy.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Albert medal of the Royal Society of Arts for the current year has been awarded to Orville Wright, "in recognition of the value of the contributions of Wilbur and Orville Wright to the solution of the problem of me-

chanical flight." The report of the council says: "The largest share in the honor of having invented the aeroplane must always be given to the two brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright."

M. LECLAINCHE has been elected a member of the section of agriculture of the Paris Academy of Sciences, to succeed M. Chauveau.

DR. WILLIAM J. MAYO, of Rochester, Minn., has been summoned to Washington to confer with the government officials relative to the formation of a central medical staff in Washington, the purpose of which will be to obtain the best medical service for American soldiers while in the field.

DEWELL GANN, JR., of the medical department of the University of Arkansas, secretary of the Arkansas Academy of Sciences, has been commissioned a first lieutenant in the Officers' Reserve Corps, and expects assignment to a medical unit in France.

MR. BARRINGTON MOORE, associate curator of woods and forestry in the American Museum of Natural History, has gone to France to give his services in a forestry regiment.

PROFESSOR ELIOT BLACKWELDER, of the University of Illinois, is at present in California as a geological member of an advisory commission appointed by the governor of California to investigate the petroleum resources of the state.

MR. KARL P. SCHMIDT, assistant in herpetology in the American Museum of Natural History, has been appointed a member of the New York State Food Commission.

THE *Geographical Review* gives information concerning field work by botanists as follows: Professor F. E. Clements, who has accepted a position in the department of botanical research of the Carnegie Institution, is in the west and will devote the summer largely to grazing problems in connection with the national emergency. Incidentally he hopes to complete the task of securing material for a monograph he is planning to write on the bad lands. Dr. O. E. Jennings, of the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, is spending the summer in botanical exploration and collecting